

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 00452 01 OF 02 150935Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-05 SSC-01 /076 W

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R 130930Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2801

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LAGOS 0452

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MILI, PFOR, PINT, NI, OAU

SUBJECT: PROMOTIONS OF 16 FMG LEADERS

REF: LAGOS 367

SUMMARY: PROMOTIONS OF HEAD OF STATE AND FIFTEEN OTHER HIGH-
LEVEL MILITARY OFFICIALS WERE ANNOUNCED JANUARY 8. ANNOUNCE-
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 00452 01 OF 02 150935Z

MENT CAME ON EVE GENERAL MUHAMMED'S TRIP TO OAU SUMMIT AND

PERMITTED HIM ARRIVE ADDIS WITH RANK BEFITTING NIGERIAN IDEA OF NIGERIA'S STATUS. ACTION PROBABLY REPRESENTS NORMAL TURN OF EVENTS (ALL OFFICERS ABOVE RANK OF BRIGADIER WERE RETIRED AT TIME OF COUP) AND FITS IN WITH DRIVE TO MODERNIZE AND REORGANIZE ARMY. NEVERTHELESS, IT INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT PROMOTIONS OF TOP LEVEL OF SMC CAME IN WAKE OF HOLIDAY SPATE OF COUP RUMORS. END SUMMARY.

1. FMG ANNOUNCED JANUARY 8 PROMOTIONS OF HEAD OF STATE MUHAMMED TO FULL GENERAL (REFTEL), CHIEF OF STAFF OBASANJO AND CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF DUNJAMA TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL. IN ALL, 16 SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS, 11 OF THEM MEMBERS OF SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC), PROMOTED. DATES OF RANK (DOR) OF MUHAMMED AND OBASANJO ARE JULY 29, 1975, THE DATE OF COUP THAT BROUGHT THEM TO POWER. DOR OF ALL OTHERS IN JANUARY 1, 1976.

2. PROMOTIONS, WITH OLD RANKS AND MEMBERSHIP IN SMC INDICATED IN PARENTHESES, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- A. (BRIGADIER) MURTALS MUHAMMED (SMC) TO GENERAL.
 - B. (BRIGADIER) OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, CHIEF OF STAFF SUPREME HEAD-QUARTERS, (SMC), TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL.
 - C. (BRIGADIER) T.Y. DANJUMA, CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF (SMC), TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL.
 - D. (COMMODORE) M. A. ADELANWA, CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF (SMC), TO REAR ADMIRAL.
 - E. (COLONEL) JOHN YISA-DOKO, CHIEF OF AIR STAFF (SMC), TO AIR COMMODORE.
 - F. (BRIGADIER) E.O. ABISOYE, 3D DIVISION COMMANDER (SMC), TO MAJOR GENERAL.
 - G. (BRIGADIER) MARTIN ADAMU, 2D DIVISION COMMANDER (SMC), TO MAJOR GENERAL.
 - H. (BRIGADIE) J. A. AKINRINADE, 1ST DIVISION COMMANDER (SMC), TO MAJOR GENERAL.
 - I. (BRIGADIER) JOHN OBADA, 4TH DIVISION (LAGOS GARRISON) COMMANDER (SMC), TO MAJOR GENERAL.
 - J. (BRIGADIER) GIBSON JALLO, COMMANDANT NIGERIAN DEFENCE ACADEMY, TO MAJOR GENERAL.
 - K. (BRIGADIER) O. OLUTOYE, COMMISSIONER FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS, TO MAJOR GENERAL.
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PAGE 03 LAGOS 00452 01 OF 02 150935Z

- L. (BRIGADIER) I.D. BISALLA, COMMISSIONER FOR DEFENSE (SMC) TO MAJOR GENERAL.
- M. (BRIGADIER) M. SHUWA, COMMISSIONER FOR TRADE, TO MAJOR GENERAL.
- N. (BRIGADIER) I.B. M. HARUNA, COMMISSIONER FOR INFORMATION, TO MAJOR GENERAL.
- O. (BRIGADIER) J. J. OLULEYE, COMMISSIONER FOR ESTABLISHMENTS (SMC), TO MAJOR GENERAL.

P. (BRIGADIER) HENRY ADEFOPE, COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, TO
MAJOR GENERAL.

3. DAO HAS LEARNED THAT PROMOTIONS OF ADDITIONAL OFFICERS,
PRESUMABLY INCLUDING THE JUNIOR RANKING MEMBERS OF SMC, ARE
EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED STON.

4. COMMENT: ELEVATION TO GENERAL SUPPORTS IMPRESSION THAT
MUHAMMEDS EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY ON INCREASE RECENTLY--LARGELY
AS RESULT OF HIS EXPLOITING ANGOLA ISSUE. TIMING OF PROMOTIONS
PERMITTED MUHAMMED ARRIVE AT OAU SUMMIT AS EQUAL OF OTHER BEMEDALLED
HEADS OF STATE, RATHER THAN AS LOWLY BRIGADIER.

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 00452 02 OF 02 132141Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LAGOS 0452

5. MAKING OF OBASANJO'S DOR RETROATIVE TO LAST JULY ALONG WITH MUHAMMED'S TENDS TO CONFIRM CHIEF OF STAFF'S NUMBER TWO STANDING IN HIERARCHY.

6. ABSENCE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER, COLONEL JOSEPH GARBA, FROM PROMOTION LIST IS NOTICEABLE, BUT PERHAPS NOT SIGNIFICANT AS ONLY COLONAL PROMOTED WAS ONE OF SERVICE CHIEFS OF STAFF, AIR-FORCE'S YISA-DOKO, ONE OF ORIGINAL CORE OF
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 00452 02 OF 02 132141Z

SMC ANNOUNCED JULY 29 (LAGOS 7222). ALTHOUGH GARBA HAS BEEN IN RANK ONLY ONE YEAR, HE MAY BE PROMOTED IN NEXT BATCH ALONG WITH OTHER COLONELS ON SMC, AND POSSIBLY SOME MILITARY GOVERNORS.

7. PROMOTIONS ARE SIGNIFICANT BREAK FROM STANCE OF SELF-DENIAL, SHUNNING OF FRILLS, WHICH NEW FMG HAD MAINTAINED SINCE COUP. INITIAL PUBLIC REACTION NOT RPT NOT FAVORABLE. UNIBADAN STUDENTS WHO LET DEMONSTRATION JANUARY 9 AGAINST AMCONCUL QUOTED SAME DAY AS SAYING THEY RECEIVED NEWS OF PROMOTIONS WITH QTE UTTER DISGUST AND DISAPPOINTMENT UNQTE, IMPLYING FEARS PROMOTIONS COULD SOMEHOW DELAY RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE. FROM POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW, PROMOTIONS MAY IN TIME PROVE TO HAVE BEEN MISTAKE. ACTION MAY BE READ BY PUBLIC AS WAY NEW LEADERS REWARD THEMSELVES.

8. NUMBER OF OFFICERS HOLDING RANK OF MAJOR GENERAL OR EQUVALENT OR ABOVE IS NOW NEARLY TRIPLE THE NUMBER (SIX) IN GOWON'S TIME. THIS MAY BE PART OF REORGANIZATION OF ARMED FORCES, TO WHICH FMG DEVOTING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION. THE DIFFICULT TASKS OF DEMOBILIZING MARGINAL TROOPS AND PUTTING MONEY SAVED INTO INCREASED FIREPOWER AND LOGISTIC CAPABILITY WILL TAKE TIME, BUT THE TASK OF CREATING IBRE GENERALS, BRINGING THE UPPER RANK STRUCTURE OF THE ARMED FORCES MORE IATO LINE WITH THAT OBTAINED IN LARGE MODERN ARMIES, CAN BE DONE INSTANTLY. DATT ESTIMATES THERE NOW ROOM FOR AS MANY AS TWELVE NEW BRIGADIERS WITH PURELY MILITARY RESPONSIBILITIES.

9. INTERESTING THAT PROMOTIONS COME SO SOON AFTER HOLIDAY PERIOD RIFE WITH RUMORS OF COUPS AND ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS AGAINST MUHAMMED. ALTHOUGH THERE NO RPT NO HARD EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM SUCH RUMORS, THERE APPARENTLY WAS SOME EVENT OR REPORT WHICH LED TO SERIOUS SMC CONCERN. ROADBLOCKS AND CAR SEARCHES WERE COMMONPLACE IN LAGOS FROM CHRISTMAS EVE THROUGH NEW YEARS. UNCHARITABLE OBSERVERS MIGHT CONNECT TIMING AND NUMBER OF PROMITIONS TO REGIME JITTERS. HOWEVER, DATT REPORTS THERE NO EVIDENT UNEASE AMONG MILITARY LEADERSHIP. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF AND HIS OFFICERS LOOK ON PROMITION

EXERCISE IN PURELY MILITARY TERMS.

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